

Kentucky Adult Education Profile



What is Kentucky Adult Education?

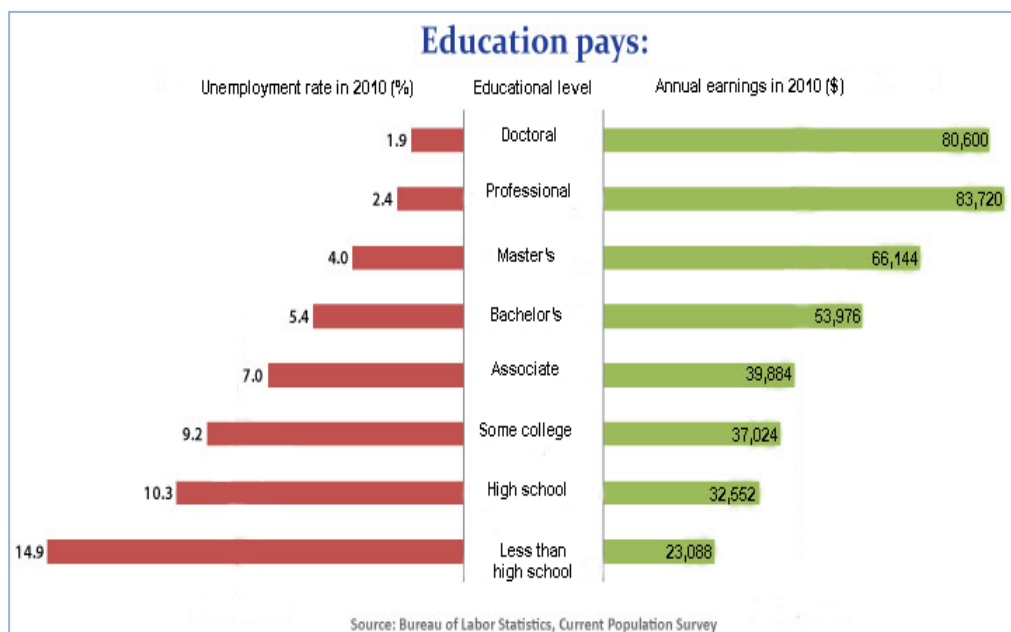
The mission of Kentucky Adult Education is to prepare our students for college and career readiness by delivering a world-class education. KYAE is committed to a quality adult education system that is accountable, efficient and meets the needs of students. Across the Commonwealth, KYAE programs help adult students gain the academic skills and credentials they need to transition to postsecondary education, function productively in the workforce and support their families.

Why is adult education important?

For Kentucky to be successful, the nearly 420,000 Kentuckians age 18-64 (16 percent of the working-age population) without a high school credential must have the opportunity to prepare themselves for college and careers, an opportunity that KYAE programs provide.

Consider the following:

- The Kentucky Office of Employment and Training estimates that by 2018, some form of postsecondary education will be required for 29 percent of all jobs and 48 percent of new jobs in Kentucky.
- A person with a high school credential earns nearly \$9,500 more per year than a high school drop-out. The potential increased earnings for GED graduates in 2010-11 alone will be more than \$2.9 billion over a 30-year career. The chart above illustrates the relationship between education, earnings and unemployment.
- Parents are powerful educational role models. For Kentucky's schools to be successful, we must help adults achieve their educational goals.
- Individuals without a high school credential are more likely to be unemployed, three times as likely to be in poverty and eight times as likely to be incarcerated.
- Increased education has a positive effect on health status.
- Human capital infrastructure reflected as an educated and trained workforce plays a significant role in economic development efforts.



According to a recent policy paper, “*The Return on Investment from Adult Education and Training*,” McGraw-Hill Research Foundation, May 2011:

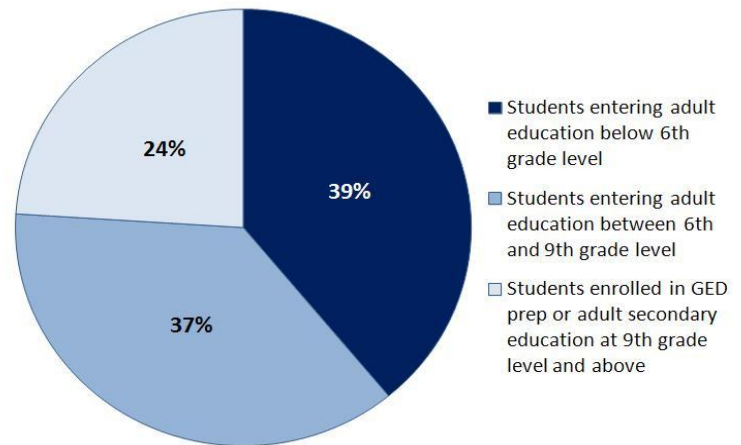
“A preemptive focus on adult education actually saves governments money by reducing societal healthcare, public assistance and incarceration costs. Adult education also improves and expands the nation’s available pool of human capital by helping motivated but under educated people achieve gainful employment in today’s increasingly high-tech and global job market, and at a far lower cost per learner when compared to either K-12 or higher education.”

Who are KYAE students?

KYAE enrollment grew 30 percent between 2005 and 2009 – the latest national comparison data available. In that timeframe, Kentucky had the greatest percentage change in adult education enrollment of any state in the nation. In 2010-11, KYAE enrolled 38,654 students:

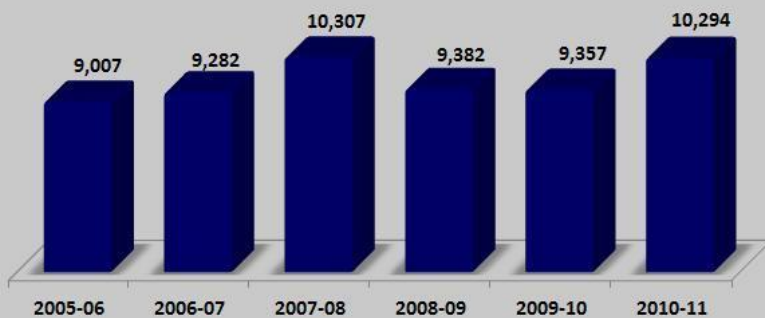
- 81 percent were age 18-44, adults who will be in the workforce for another two to five decades.
- 32 percent of students already had a high school credential.
- 3,776 students were in English as a second language programs.
- 5,324 students were in corrections education.

**Students in Academic Instruction by Educational Level
FY 2010-11**



What are KYAE's outcomes?

GED® Graduates



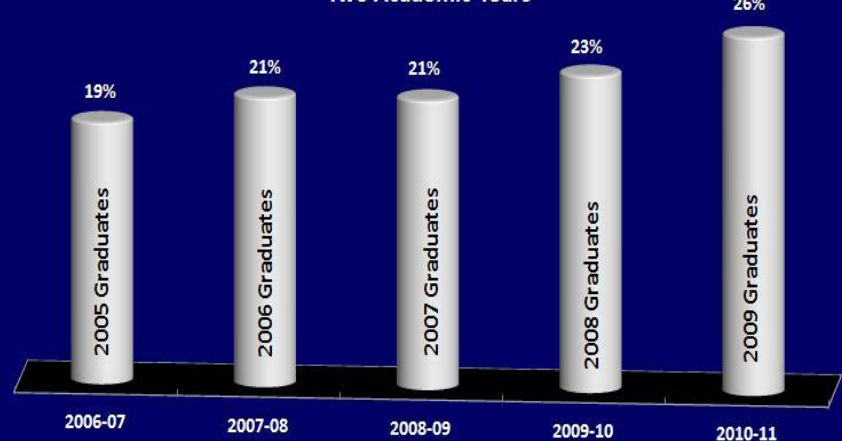
In 2010-11, 10,294 Kentuckians earned a GED®, up 10 percent over the previous year. Kentucky's 2010 GED® pass rate is 81 percent, which exceeds the national GED® pass rate of 74 percent.

The most recent data, 2010-11, show that 26 percent of Kentucky GED® graduates transition to postsecondary education within two years.

Of those 2009 GED® graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education by summer 2011:

- 89 percent enrolled in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.
- 8 percent enrolled in a public four-year institution.
- 3 percent enrolled in an independent institution.

GED® Graduates Enrolling in Kentucky's Colleges and Universities Within Two Academic Years



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How is KYAE meeting the challenge?

Increasing the number of GED graduates and the number of adults transitioning to postsecondary education are major KYAE goals. Achieving these goals requires state staff and local programs to identify promising approaches to reaching and teaching more adults. Some of KYAE's key strategies include the following initiatives.

- The implementation of KYAE Common Core Standards and curricula alignment will lead to higher GED scores and more GED graduates transitioning into credit-bearing college courses. Over the next two years, KYAE's professional development for nearly 700 instructors will focus on implementing the KYAE Common Core Standards.
- In support of higher standards, KYAE is funding transitions pilots in adult education programs to test curricula leading to college- and career-ready GED graduates.
- KYAE promotes innovative uses of technology in the classroom to appeal to younger, more tech-savvy students as well as those with different learning styles.
- In partnership with the Kentucky Broadcaster's Association, KYAE is conducting an 18-month outreach campaign featuring TV and radio spots. Additionally, Joe Graviss, a CPE member and McDonald's owner, has led a partnership with KYAE and his colleagues to promote adult education through McDonald's restaurants in 53 counties.

Where can I find more information about KYAE?

www.kyae.ky.gov